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Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Statement submitted by Hope for the Nations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2004/100.

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The civil society workshop, held on 20 February 2004 in Kelowna, Canada, facilitated the exchange of information and communication among the participants on the experiences of their different organizations in working towards the high-level segment theme of 2004. The participants identified several crucial issues to be addressed in the least developed countries and presented recommendations and concrete proposals for partnership with the United Nations in the framework of the UN-NGO-IRENE (Informal Regional Network).

- Each least developed country must clearly define a clear vision for its future based on an efficient use of its resources and optimal exploitation of its potentialities. Structural integrity, accountability in leadership and opportunities for nationals must be encouraged.
- A consensus of all actors and stakeholders in this vision and the strategy to adopt to achieve it has to be reached following a participatory process.
- All the social, economic and political actors and stakeholders should actively and effectively participate in the whole process of integrated development within participatory governance at all levels.
- Emphasis has to be given to a realistic and feasible, comprehensive and integrated approach for poverty alleviation and sustainable development in least developed countries. Attention must be paid to land reform, agricultural technology, market access and trade policies. Aid commitments must be fulfilled and distributed effectively.
- Just monetary policies must be promoted and support must be given to efforts towards debt forgiveness, including promoting education.
- International institutions and the Canadian Government must be encouraged to always prioritize integrated and comprehensive development programmes as a major tool to alleviate poverty in least developed countries.
- Universal education, utilizing a relevant curriculum, must be promoted through increased funding, resources and training. The promotion of the education of women, through female-dominated professions leading by example, must be encouraged. Education is to be expanded to include life skills and sustainable development. The creation of networks among Canadian NGOs is necessary to facilitate these objectives and mobilize effective exchanges.
- The prevention and resolution of conflict through building and maintaining peace in the least developed countries in a sustained way must be prioritized. Citizens must be educated about consultation and consensus to promote confidence in peaceful conflict resolution.
- Access to drugs and responding to the special needs of affected children must be encouraged to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic. NGOs must participate in promoting the best management practices for prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.